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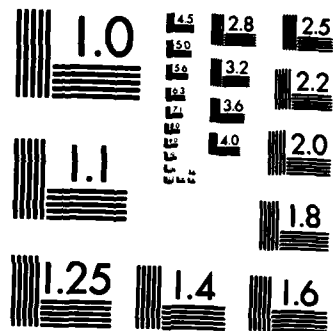
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Exponential Approximations
for Two Classes of Aging Distributions

by Mark Brown
The City College, CUNY

and Guangping Ge
CUNY Graduate Center

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Summary. Inequalities are derived for the quality of exponential approximation to NBUE (new better than used) and NWUE (new worse than used) distributions.

Approximation for	
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 MATTHEW J. KERPER
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1. Introduction. If a random variable is exponentially distributed with $\mu = EX$ and $\mu_2 = EX^2$, then $\mu_2 = 2\mu^2$. Defining $\rho = \left| \frac{\mu_2}{2\mu^2} - 1 \right|$, it is tempting to conjecture that under mild restrictions a distribution with small ρ is approximately exponential. That restrictions are needed is seen by the example, $\Pr(X=0) = \Pr(X=1) = \frac{1}{2}$, for which $\rho = 0$.

The scale invariant quantity, ρ , was suggested by Keilson [7]. It has an interesting interpretation. Define $G(x) = \mu^{-1} \int_0^x \bar{F}(s) ds$, the stationary renewal distribution corresponding to F . Then $\mu_G = \mu_2/2\mu$ and $\rho = \left| \frac{\mu_G}{\mu} - 1 \right|$. The parameter ρ is thus the scaled (by μ) distance between μ and μ_G . For F exponential, $F = G$ and thus $\mu = \mu_G$.

The problem of interest can be stated as follows: Given a class \mathcal{L} of distributions, along with the first two moments μ and μ_2 find upper bounds for $\sup_{t, F \in \mathcal{L}} |\bar{F}(t) - e^{-t/\mu}|$ in terms of ρ .

The above problem for the class of completely monotone distributions (mixtures of exponential distributions) was studied by Keilson [7], Heyde [5], Heyde and Leslie [6], Hall [4], and Brown [1].

Brown [1] considered the class of IMRL (increasing mean residual life) distributions on $[0, \infty)$ deriving:

$$(1.1) \quad \sup_t |\bar{F}(t) - e^{-t/\mu}| \leq \frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$$

$$(1.2) \quad \sup_{B \in \mathcal{B}} |F(B) - G(B)| \leq \frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$$

$$(1.3) \quad \sup_{B \in \mathcal{B}} \left| G(B) - \int_B \mu^{-1} e^{-t/\mu} dt \right| \leq \frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$$

$$(1.4) \quad \sup_t |\bar{G}(t) - e^{-t/\mu_G}| \leq \frac{\rho}{\rho+1}.$$

In (1.2) and (1.3) above β is the collection of Borel subsets of $[0, \infty)$. The quantity $\frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$ was shown to be the best upper bound for (1.1) and (1.2) even within the subclass of completely monotone distributions.

Brown [2] considered the class of IFR (increasing failure rate) distributions. It turns out that in this case (1.1) and (1.2) hold with $\frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$ replaced by 2ρ , and (1.3) and (1.4) hold with $\frac{\rho}{\rho+1}$ replaced by ρ . The bound 2ρ is the best bound for (1.1), among bounds of the form $c\rho^\alpha$.

In this paper we consider the problem for F NBUE (new better than used in expectation) and for F NWUE (new worse than used in expectation). These are the weakest among the commonly studied classes of aging distributions, and it is often easy to demonstrate that a distribution belongs to one of these classes (NBUE and NWUE are defined in Section 2). The methods of Brown ([1], [2]) do not generalize to these cases because the partial ordering between F and G is too weak. Instead we use Fourier methods adopted from Feller [3]. Our main result is that for F NBUE or NWUE:

$$(1.5) \quad \sup_t |\bar{F}(t) - e^{-t/\mu}| \leq A\rho^{1/2}$$

where $A = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi} \approx 3.119$. For the NBUE case we show that the best bound of the form $c\rho^\alpha$ has $\alpha = 1/2$ and $1 \leq c \leq \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi}$. Thus the potential improvement in (1.5) for F NBUE is the lowering of the constant from 3.119 to 1. This remains true even within the subclass of IFRA distributions.

2. Definitions and Preliminary Results. A distribution F on $[0, \infty)$ with $F(0) < 1$ and finite mean μ is defined to be NBUE if $E(X-t|X>t) \leq \mu$ for all $t \geq 0$ with $\bar{F}(t) > 0$. Since $E(X-t|X>t) = \mu \bar{G}(t)/\bar{F}(t)$, it follows that F is NBUE if and only if F is stochastically larger than G , the stationary renewal distribution corresponding to F . Define h_G to be the failure rate function of G and note that $h_G(t) = [E(X-t|X>t)]^{-1}$, thus F is NBUE if and only if $h_G(t) \geq \mu^{-1}$ for all $t \geq 0$ with $\bar{F}(t) > 0$.

A distribution F on $[0, \infty)$ with $F(0) > 1$ and finite mean is defined to be NWUE if $E(X-t|X>t) \geq \mu$ for all $t \geq 0$ with $\bar{F}(t) > 0$. This is equivalent to F being stochastically smaller than G , and also to $h_G \leq \mu^{-1}$.

Lemma 2.1. If F is NBUE then $\bar{G}(t) \leq e^{-t/\mu}$ for all $t \geq 0$; for F NWUE, $\bar{G}(t) \geq e^{-t/\mu}$ for all $t \geq 0$.

Proof. For F NBUE let t_0 be the smallest number such that $\bar{F}(t_0) = 0$, with $t_0 = \infty$ if $\bar{F}(t) > 0$ for all t . Now $h_G(t) \geq \mu^{-1}$ for $0 \leq t < t_0$, thus $\bar{G}(t) \leq e^{-t/\mu}$ for $0 \leq t < t_0$. If $t_0 < \infty$ then for $t > t_0$ $\bar{G}(t) = 0 \leq e^{-t/\mu}$. If F is NWUE then $\bar{F}(t) > 0$ for all t , for if $\bar{F}(t_0) = 0$ for a finite t_0 then $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} E(X-t|X>t) = 0 < \mu$. Thus $h_G(t) \leq \mu^{-1}$ for all $t \geq 0$ and $\bar{G}(t) \geq e^{-t/\mu}$ for all $t \geq 0$.

The following inequality (Lemma 2.2) is quite an important tool in deriving our subsequent results. It relies heavily on a smoothing result of Feller [3] (Lemma 1. p. 510).

Lemma 2.2. Let F_1, F_2 be probability distributions on $[0, \infty)$ with finite means μ_1 and μ_2 . Assume that F_1 is either stochastically larger or smaller than F_2 , and that F_2 is differentiable with $F_2'(x) \leq \mu_1^{-1}$ for all $x \geq 0$. Then:

$$\sup_x |F_1(x) - F_2(x)| \leq A[|\mu_1 - \mu_2|/\mu_1]^{1/2}$$

where $A = 4\sqrt{6}/\pi$.

Proof. By Feller [3], Lemma 1 p. 510,

$$(2.3) \quad \sup_x |F_1(x) - F_2(x)| \leq 2 \sup_t |T_{\Delta}(t)| + \frac{24}{\pi\mu_1 T}$$

where $\Delta(x) = F_1(x) - F_2(x)$

$$T_{\Delta}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Delta(t-x) V_T(x) dx$$

$$V_T(x) = \frac{1 - \cos Tx}{\pi T x^2}.$$

Now, assume that F_1 is stochastically larger than F_2 . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} |T_{\Delta}(t)| &= \left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [F_1(t-x) - F_2(t-x)] \frac{1 - \cos Tx}{\pi T x^2} dx \right| \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^t [\bar{F}_1(t-x) - \bar{F}_2(t-x)] \frac{1 - \cos Tx}{\pi T x^2} dx \\ &\leq \frac{T}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^t [\bar{F}_1(t-x) - \bar{F}_2(t-x)] dx \\ &= \frac{T}{2\pi} (\mu_1 - \mu_2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus from (2.3):

$$\sup |F_1(x) - F_2(x)| \leq \frac{1}{\pi} [T(\mu_1 - \mu_2) + \frac{24}{\mu_1 T}] .$$

Define $L(T) = T(\mu_1 - \mu_2) + \frac{24}{\mu_1 T}$, then a routine differentiation argument gives:

$$\min_{T>0} L(T) = L[(24/T\mu_1(\mu_2 - \mu_1))^{1/2}] = 4\sqrt{6} [1 - (\mu_2/\mu_1)]^{1/2}$$

and the result is proved.

If F_2 is stochastically larger than F_1 the analogous result follows by similar argument.

3. NBUE Results. Assume that F is NBUE. Recall that $\bar{G}(t) \leq \bar{F}(t)$ and $G(t) \leq e^{-t/\mu}$ for all $t \geq 0$, where G is the stationary renewal distribution corresponding to F . Note that $G'(x) = \bar{F}(x)/\mu \leq \mu^{-1}$ for all x . Applying lemma 2.2 with $F_1 = F$, $F_2 = G$ we obtain:

$$(3.1) \quad \sup |\bar{F}(x) - \bar{G}(x)| \leq \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi} (1 - \frac{\mu_G}{\mu}) = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi} \rho^{1/2} .$$

By Brown [1] remark 4.14, for F NBUE:

$$(3.2) \quad \sup |\bar{G}(t) - e^{-t/\mu}| \leq \sup |G(B) - \int_B \mu^{-1} e^{-t/\mu} dt| \leq \rho .$$

Since F NBUE implies $\bar{G}(x) \leq \min(\bar{F}(x), e^{-x/\mu})$ for all $x \geq 0$, it follows that:

$$(3.3) \quad \sup |\bar{F}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}| \leq \max(\sup |\bar{F}(x) - \bar{G}(x)|, \sup |\bar{G}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}|) \leq \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi} \rho^{1/2}.$$

Next, by simple computation:

$$(3.4) \quad \sup |e^{-t/\mu} - e^{-t/\mu_G}| \leq 1 - (\mu_G/\mu) = \rho.$$

Moreover, $e^{-t/\mu} \geq \max(\bar{G}(t), e^{-t/\mu_G})$, thus:

$$(3.5) \quad \sup |\bar{G}(t) - e^{-t/\mu_G}| \leq \max(\sup |\bar{G}(t) - e^{-t/\mu}|, \sup |e^{-t/\mu} - e^{-t/\mu_G}|) \leq \rho.$$

We summarize these results in Theorem 3.6.

Theorem 3.6. Let F be NBUE. Then:

$$\sup |\bar{F}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}| \leq A\rho^{1/2}$$

$$\sup |\bar{F}(x) - \bar{G}(x)| \leq A\rho^{1/2}$$

$$\sup |\bar{G}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}| \leq \sup |G(B) - \int_B \mu^{-1} e^{-t/\mu} dt| \leq \rho$$

$$\sup |\bar{G}(x) - e^{-x/\mu_G}| \leq \rho$$

where $A = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi}$ and $\rho = 1 - (\mu_2/2\mu^2)$.

Corollary (3.7) below presents a limit theorem for NBUE distributions.

Corollary 3.7. Let $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of NBUE random variables with $\mu_n = EX_n$, $\mu_{2,n} = EX_n^2$ and $\rho_n = 1 - (\mu_{2,n}/2\mu_n^2)$. Then X_n/μ_n converges in distribution to an exponential distribution if and only if

$\lim \rho_n = 0$, in which case the mean of the limiting exponential distribution equals 1.

Proof. The sufficiency of the condition $\lim \rho_n = 0$ follows from Theorem 3.6. To prove necessity assume that $\lim \Pr(X_n > t\mu_n) = e^{-ct}$ for all $t \geq 0$, and some $c > 0$. Let G_n denote the stationary renewal distribution corresponding to X_n , and H_n the stationary renewal distribution corresponding to X_n/μ_n . Then $\bar{H}_n(t) = \bar{G}_n(t\mu_n)$ and $\rho_n = 1 - \int_0^\infty \bar{H}_n(t)dt$.

Now:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bar{H}_n(t) = 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_n(t) = 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t \Pr(X_n > s\mu_n)ds = 1 - [(1 - e^{-ct})/c] .$$

Since X_n is NBUE, so is X_n/μ_n , and it thus follows from Lemma 2.1 that:

$$\bar{H}_n(t) \leq e^{-t} \text{ for all } n, t > 0 .$$

Thus by the dominated convergence theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho_n &= 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^\infty \bar{H}_n(t)dt = 1 - \int_0^\infty [1 - \{(1 - e^{-ct})/c\}]dt \\ &= \begin{cases} \infty & \text{for } c < 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } c = 1 \\ -\infty & \text{for } c > 1 . \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

But NBUE distributions satisfy $0 \leq \rho \leq 1/2$ (since $\mu_2 \geq \mu^2$ by Chebychev's inequality). Thus c equals 1 and $\lim \rho_n = 0$.

4. Potential Improvement of NBUE Bound. In the following example we have a sequence of IFRA (and thus NBUE) distributions $\{F_n, n \geq 1\}$, with

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sup |\bar{F}_n(x) - e^{-x/\mu_n}|}{\rho_n^{1/2}} = 1.$$

It follows from this example and theorem 1 that the best bound of the form $c\rho^\alpha$ has $\alpha = 1/2$ and $1 \leq c \leq \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi}$. Thus the maximum potential improvement in the bound $A\rho^{1/2}$ is the lowering of A to 1. This statement holds for the NBUE class as well as for the subclasses NBU and IFRA.

The distribution F_n is defined by:

$$\bar{F}_n(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t < \frac{1}{n} \\ e^{-t} & t \geq \frac{1}{n} \end{cases}.$$

Then:

$$\mu_n = n^{-1} + e^{-n^{-1}}$$

$$\mu_{2,n} = n^{-2} + 2(n^{-1} + 1)e^{-n^{-1}}$$

$$\rho_n = 1 - [(1 + 2n(n+1)e^{-n^{-1}}) / 2(1 + ne^{-n^{-1}})^2]$$

$$D_n = \sup |\bar{F}_n(x) - e^{-x/\mu_n}| = 1 - \exp[-1/(1 + ne^{-n^{-1}})] .$$

It follows that:

$$D_n = n^{-1} + o(n^{-1})$$

and

$$\rho_n = n^{-2} + o(n^{-2}) .$$

Thus:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [D_n / |\rho_n|^{1/2}] = 1 .$$

5. NWUE Results. Assume that F is NWUE. Applying Lemma 2.2 with $F_1 = F$ and $F_2 = G$ we obtain:

$$(5.1) \quad \sup |\bar{F}(x) - \bar{G}(x)| \leq A\rho^{1/2} .$$

We do not know of an analogue of (3.2) for NWUE distributions, but applying Lemma 2.2 with $\bar{F}_1(x) = e^{-x/\mu}$ and $F_2 = G$ we obtain:

$$(5.2) \quad \sup |\bar{G}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}| \leq A\rho^{1/2} .$$

Since $\bar{G}(x) \geq \max(\bar{F}(x), e^{-x/\mu})$ it follows from (5.1) and (5.2) that:

$$(5.3) \quad \sup |\bar{F}(x) - e^{-x/\mu}| \leq A\rho^{1/2} .$$

Finally since $e^{-x/\mu} \leq \min(\bar{G}(t), e^{-t/\mu_G})$ and $\sup |e^{-t/\mu_G} - e^{-t/\mu}| \leq 1 - (\mu/\mu_G) = \rho/\rho+1$, we obtain:

$$(5.4) \quad \sup |\bar{G}(x) - e^{-x/\mu_G}| \leq A\rho^{1/2} .$$

Corollary (3.7) does not hold for NWUE distributions. While (5.3) insures that $\lim \rho_n = 0$ is sufficient for convergence to an exponential distribution, $\lim \rho_n = 0$ is not a necessary condition. To see this consider the distribution F with failure rate:

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} 2 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 2x^{-1} & x > 1. \end{cases}$$

Clearly F is DFR, with finite mean, and infinite second moment. Now, for $n=1,2,\dots$ define:

$$F_n(x) = n^{-1}F(x) + (1-n^{-1})(1-e^{-x}).$$

Since F_n is a mixture of DFR distributions, F_n is DFR and thus NWUE. Clearly, F_n converges to an exponential distribution with mean 1. However since F has infinite second moment, so does F_n , and thus $\rho_n = \infty$ for all n .

6. Geometric Sums. Y is defined to be a geometric sum of X with parameter p if Y can be represented as $\sum_1^N X_i$ with $\{X_i, i \geq 1\}$ i.i.d. as X , N geometrically distributed with parameter p , and N and $\{X_i\}$ independent.

Lemma 6.1. If Y is a geometric sum of X with parameter p then $\rho_Y = p\rho_X$ where $\rho_Y = |(EY^2/2(EY)^2)-1|$ and $\rho_X = |(EX^2/2(EX)^2)-1|$.

Proof. Define $\mu = EX$, $\mu_2 = EX^2$, $\sigma^2 = \text{Var } X$, $\mu_Y = EY$, $\mu_{2,Y} = EY^2$ and $\sigma_Y^2 = \text{Var } Y$. Note that:

$$(6.2) \quad \mu_Y = \mu/p$$

$$(6.3) \quad \sigma_Y^2 = q\mu^2 p^{-2} + \sigma^2 p^{-1}.$$

Thus:

$$(6.4) \quad \mu_{2,Y} = (1+q)\mu^2 p^{-2} + \sigma^2 p^{-1}.$$

From (6.2) and (6.4):

$$(6.5) \quad \mu_{2,Y}/2\mu_Y^2 = q + (\mu_2/2\mu^2).$$

We see from (6.5) that $\mu_{2,Y}/2\mu_Y^2 \leq 1$ if and only if $\mu_2/2\mu^2 \leq 1$. Assume that $\mu_2/2\mu^2 \leq 1$. Then:

$$(6.6) \quad \rho_Y = 1 - (\mu_{2,Y}/2\mu_Y^2) = p[1 - (\mu_2/2\mu^2)] = p\rho_X.$$

Finally for $\mu_2/2\mu^2 \leq 1$:

$$(6.7) \quad \rho_Y = (\mu_{2,Y}/2\mu_Y^2) - 1 = p[(\mu_2/2\mu^2) - 1] = p\rho_X$$

and the result is proved.

Lemma 6.8. Suppose that Y is a geometric sum of X where X is NBUE. Then Y is NBUE. The analogous result holds for X NWUE.

Proof. Consider a renewal process with interarrival time distribution X . Binomial sampling with probability p of the renewal epochs leads to an embedded renewal process with interarrival time distribution Y . It follows that Y^* can be represented as $X^* + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} X_i$, where $X^*(Y^*)$ has the stationary distribution of $X(Y)$. $\{X_i\}$ is i.i.d. as X , N is geometric with parameter p , and X^* , $\{X_i\}$, and N are independent. But, Y is representable as $X + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} X_i$ with X , N and $\{X_i\}$ independent. Now if X is NBUE then X is stochastically greater than X^* so $Y = X + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} X_i$ is stochastically greater than $Y^* = X^* + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} X_i$, and Y is thus NBUE. The analogous argument obviously works for X NWUE.

Theorem 6.9. Let X be either NBUE or NWUE with finite second moment. Suppose that Y is a geometric sum of X with parameter p . Then:

$$\sup |\Pr(Y > t) - e^{-t p \mu}^{-1}| \leq A(p\rho)^{1/2}$$

where $A = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{\pi}$ and $\rho = |(EX^2/2(EX)^2) - 1|$.

Proof. The result follows from Theorem 3.6, Lemma 6.7 and Lemma 6.8.

Note that Theorem 6.9 applies to defective renewal processes, which are discussed in Feller [3], chapter XI, sections 6 and 7.

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